

secretory cells,

- (d) polymerizing collagen in said semisolid bead to form a solid, agarose-collagen bead containing secretory cells, and
- (e) coating said solid, agarose-collagen bead containing secretory cells with agarose.

~~2~~ 52. The method of claim ~~51~~¹, wherein said secretory cells are contained in pancreatic islets.

cont'd 3
~~4~~ 53. The method of claim ~~52~~², wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets, bovine pancreatic islets, rat pancreatic islets or porcine pancreatic islets.

~~4~~ 54. The method of claim ~~53~~³, wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets.

~~5~~ 55. The method of claim ~~54~~¹, wherein said secretory cells are contained in from about 50,000 to about 700,000 pancreatic islets.

B ~~6~~ 56. An agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead ^{containing secretory cells} prepared by the process of claim ~~55~~¹.

~~6~~ ⁷ 57. The agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim ~~56~~¹, wherein said secretory cells are contained in pancreatic

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islets.

⁸
~~58~~. The agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim ~~58~~ wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets, bovine pancreatic islets, rat pancreatic islets or porcine pancreatic islets.

⁹
~~59~~. The agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim ~~58~~, wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets.

¹⁰
~~60~~. The agarose coated, solid agarose collagen bead of claim ~~59~~, comprising from about 50,000 to about 700,000 islets.

¹¹
~~61~~. Method for treating a mammal having a condition caused by impaired secretory cell function, comprising:

transplanting into said ^{mammal} ~~patient~~ a therapeutically effective amount of the agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim

~~58~~.

¹²
~~62~~. The method of claim ~~61~~, wherein said condition is insulin dependent diabetes.

¹³
~~63~~. The method of claim ¹² ~~62~~, wherein said bead contains cells derived from a pancreatic islet.

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